



13th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

Willie Johnson, Jr.

Milwaukee County Courthouse • 901 N. 9th Street, RM 201 • Milwaukee, WI 53233

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www.milwaukee.gov/johnson

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

CHAIRMAN

Milwaukee County Pension Study Commission

Milwaukee County Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Steering Committee

Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation (President)

Learning for Life Committee
Three Harbors Council, BSA

VICE-CHAIRMAN

County Board Finance Committee

Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Community Insurance Corporation Board of Directors

MEMBER

County Board Personnel Committee

Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Milwaukee Community Justice Council Executive Committee
(Evidence Based Decision Making Policy Team)

Milwaukee County Local Emergency Planning Committee

Wisconsin Counties Association Board of Directors
(Past President)

Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council

National Forum for Black Public Administrators

Economics Wisconsin Board of Directors

Milwaukee County Historical Society Board of Directors



**MILWAUKEE
COUNTY**

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

FALL 2021

I am honored to represent you as Milwaukee County's 13th District Supervisor, as we continue to navigate challenging times living with the effects of COVID-19. It doesn't matter your political affiliation, your beliefs on viruses, vaccinations, or masks, we have all been affected in one way or another.

For most of us, the financial struggles have been real, and many times difficult decisions altered what we are accustomed to. For nearly two years, this County Board encountered situations never imagined before. Unpleasant, tough decisions had to be made. Pools across the county had to be closed during a very warm summer, making it particularly tough on kids whose lives were already riddled with confusion and uncertainty. As your representative, I will do everything I can to avoid another summer without open pools. I will continue to look for ways to save tax dollars, while being conscious of quality-of-life services you and your family have come to enjoy and deserve as taxpayers.

I hope you take a moment to enjoy my Fall newsletter, and I sincerely thank you for your continued support as we work together to make racial equity a reality in Milwaukee County and one of the best counties in the country.

Sincerely,

Willie Johnson, Jr. - Milwaukee County Supervisor, District 13

Juneteenth Day

Juneteenth Day commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States. The world-wide event, dating back to June 1865, began when the Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas with the news that the war had ended and the enslaved were now free. The Juneteenth Day Celebration in Milwaukee is among the oldest and longest running such parades in the nation.

Supervisor Johnson was one of several supervisors that sponsored a resolution to make Juneteenth an official Milwaukee County holiday in 2020. In 2021 President Biden signed a bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday.



Sup. Johnson (right) celebrates Milwaukee's 50th Juneteenth commemoration with (L to R: Oshi Adelabu, Ray Anthony Fikes, and Jerrell Braxton.)



Left: Raising of Juneteenth Day flag at Atkinson Park with State Rep. David Bowen, Juneteenth Day Parade Official Torre Johnson, Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., and Wisconsin Community Services Executive Director Clarence Johnson. Right: Juneteenth Day Parade Official Torre Johnson speaks to those gathered.



MARQUIS Who's Who®

Supervisor Johnson Recognized with Distinguished Worldwide Humanitarian Award

County Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr. recently received the Marquis Who's Who Distinguished Worldwide Humanitarian Award. Supervisor Johnson was also recognized as a Featured Member in Marquis Millennium Magazine and a Marquis Who's Who Top Professionals of the Year Inductee.

The Marquis Who's Who Distinguished Worldwide Humanitarian Award is awarded to exceptional leaders who strive to make a positive impact on their communities and the world. The individuals who have been honored with this prestigious award are described as philanthropists, or those who advocate for human welfare or social reform.

"I am honored to be a recipient of the Distinguished Worldwide Humanitarian Award," said Supervisor Johnson. "I have dedicated my career to helping those in need and look forward to continuing to serve my community for years to come."

Supervisor Johnson, Jr. has received dozens of awards for his work as a County Supervisor during his tenure on the County Board, including the "Equal Rights Champion" award from Equality Wisconsin the Community Advocate of the Year for 2012 award from Fair Wisconsin Education Fund. The Harambee Great Neighborhood Initiative recognized his unwavering commitment to the Harambee community and its residents with the 2014 Harambee Community "I'm In" Award, and in 2019, the Friends of Lincoln Park presented Supervisor Johnson, Jr. with appreciation for "Exceptional Service" to the Lincoln Park Community.

Supervisor Johnson was born in Waukegan, Illinois, on March 22, 1951. A resident of Milwaukee since childhood, he graduated valedictorian of his class at Lincoln High School and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with a concentration of courses in Economics from Northwestern University. He received his Master's Degree and a Doctor of Philosophy in Humanities from the Wisconsin University of Theology. Prior to his election, Supervisor Johnson worked for the Milwaukee County Department of Human Services Financial Assistance and Child Welfare divisions.

Supervisor Johnson was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2000 and represents several neighborhoods in the City of Milwaukee, including Harambee, Riverwest, Brewers Hill, Williamsburg Heights, Lincoln Park, Hillside, Halyard Park, Haymarket, Schlitz Park, North Division, Arlington Heights, and Rufus King. He also represents a small portion of Whitefish Bay.

COVID-19, Structural Deficit Make for Difficult 2022 County Budget

Setting and adopting a balanced budget is the most important task that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors take on each year. The process includes a presentation from the County Executive on the proposed budget, with hours of meetings of the Finance Committee restating a declaration of racism as a public health crisis which was adopted in 2019, as this year's proposed budget was developed using a racial equity lens and centered on three strategic focus areas: create intentional inclusion, bridge the gap, and invest in equity. Details on the county's strategic focus areas can be found at county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Vision.

Milwaukee County's budget continues to be further complicated by an ongoing structural deficit caused by state revenue caps and the increased cost of state mandated services. On average, county revenues grow by only 1% per year while expenses are expected to increase by 2.4%, the rate of inflation. The estimated operating budget gap for 2022 is \$20.3 million, and 2022 capital project requests exceeded available funding by \$78 million.

Rising to the challenge of adopting a balanced budget each year, Milwaukee County has closed budget gaps of approximately \$300 million over the past decade. The county has done this by reducing its real estate footprint by 1.6 million square feet, reducing staff by 1,400 employees, and deferring \$35 million in maintenance, among other measures. This has unfortunately led to reductions in services countywide, including in our parks, buses, and public safety functions.

With no tools to compensate for increasing costs and added needs, the county's financial cliff grows steeper. By 2027, Milwaukee County will have no local money to fund many of its priorities that are not state-mandated services.

Milwaukee County will receive a total of \$183 million in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The county received half of its allocation in May, with the other half expected in May 2022. ARPA will provide the county with a needed boost in funds to help recover from the pandemic, but the county's actual revenue loss is estimated to be nearly double the amount received from ARPA. This one-time infusion of cash can only be used through 2024 and will not solve the county's structural budget problem.

Milwaukee County continues to advocate for additional revenue options to fund local priorities. Governor Tony Evers included a proposal in his 2021-2023 state budget that would allow counties to raise their sales tax by .5% percent if approved by voters through a referendum process, but this proposal was not included in the adopted state budget.

The addition of local sales tax revenue would stabilize the county's financial situation and give the county more options to fund local priorities, protect services, and provide much needed property tax relief.

You can find out how to help solve Milwaukee County's mounting budget issues by visiting moveforwardmke.com.

Task Force Will Guide Spending of American Rescue Plan Act Funds

As a part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Congress provided Milwaukee County with \$183.6 million in federal funding.

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in July to create the ARPA Task Force, which will provide recommendations to the County Board on how to allocate these federal funds and create a public engagement process to ensure diverse community input.

U.S. Treasury Department guidance on allowable uses for the ARPA funds include:

- Supporting public health expenditures
- Addressing negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency
- Replacing lost public sector revenue
- Providing premium pay for essential workers
- Investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure

The ARPA funding Milwaukee County received will help the county's recovery, but as a one-time infusion of cash it does not effectively address Milwaukee County's long-term structural deficit.

In September the ARPA Task Force unanimously approved a framework for recommending ARPA funding, recommending that the County allocate 63% of ARPA dollars to revenue loss recovery, 20% to community support, 13% to COVID-19 mitigation, and 4% to fund administration.

6th District County Supervisor Shawn Rolland and former United Community Center Executive Director Ricardo Diaz serve as co-chairs of the ARPA Task Force. The Task Force plans to hold public hearings through the fall and winter to solicit ideas and recommendations for ARPA funding from the community.

Information on how to submit ideas to the ARPA Task Force can be found at county.milwaukee.gov/arpa.taskforce.

Records of the ARPA Task Force, including meeting agendas, minutes, and archived videos of proceedings can be found at milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx.

New Dawn Job Connections Now Hiring

New Dawn Job Connections in Milwaukee is an independent staffing company providing employment and recruiting services and human resources solutions for companies and job candidates.

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3276 N. Palmer Street Milwaukee, WI 53212
Drug screening is required

County Establishes Independent Body to Manage 2020 Redistricting

The U.S. Constitution requires elected officials to revise and redraw political districts in the United States every ten years. This process, known as redistricting and reapportionment, takes place at the local, state, and federal level. The process is based on the results of the decennial census, which tracks population growth or decline, as well as changes in demographic data.

The Board of Supervisors established the Milwaukee County Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) comprised of retired judges, "to maintain the integrity of the redistricting process and to mitigate any conflicts of interest or claims of politicization."

The IRC has directed staff from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, which is providing technical support in the form of map-making expertise, to draft maps without consideration for current maps or incumbent office holders, and to work from well-established guiding principles. Those principles, in priority order, are maintaining voting rights as defined in the 1965 Voting Rights Act, maintaining the continuity of existing city or village lines (municipal boundaries), maintaining equal population of residents across districts, and establishing compact and contiguous districts.

The Independent Redistricting Committee invites the public to attend all meetings and provide their input and feedback on the process and proposed maps. The Board of Supervisors is expected to finalize the new supervisory district map by November 23, in advance of the start of the nomination process for Spring elections, which begins on Dec. 1. For more information about how to share your input with the Committee, visit www.County.Milwaukee.gov/PublicCommentAdHoc

Get up-to-date information on FREE
Milwaukee County Attractions at:



county.milwaukee.gov/freedays



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Milwaukee, WI 53233

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DRIVE-THRU

COVID-19 TESTING

FREE AT NO COST TO YOU



Free COVID-19 testing for anyone 12-months and older, regardless of symptoms. Drive-thru or walk-up.

Northwest Health Center, 7630 W. Mill Road

Drive-thru garage – Enter at Mill Road Library, 6431 N. 76th St.

Southside Health Center, 1639 S. 23rd St.

Drive-thru heated tent in North parking lot - Enter on 24th St.

Milwaukee Community Testing Site,

2401 W. St. Paul Ave. Drive-thru garage

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE

milwaukee.gov/covidtesting
#MKECares #StaySafeMKE



CITY OF MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CLIC COUNTY LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION CENTER

For legislative files, agendas, minutes and schedules for all Milwaukee County committee and board meetings, please visit the County Legislative Information Center at:

county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC

Service Guide for 13th District Milwaukee County Residents

County Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr. 278-4233

Airports

Mitchell International Airport 747-5300

Timmerman Airport 461-3222

Child Support Enforcement 615-2593

Clerk of Circuit Court 278-5362

County Clerk 278-4067

County Executive 278-4211

County Treasurer 278-4033

Courts

Civil Division (small & large claims) 278-4120

Criminal Division 278-4538

Children's Court 257-7700

Department on Aging 289-6874

Dept. of Health & Human Services 289-6877

District Attorney's Office

John Chisholm 278-4646

Election Commission 278-4060

Emergency/Public Safety

Sheriff (non-emergency) 278-4700

Sheriff (non-emergency) 278-4766

Burn Center Hotline (24 hours) 272-2876

Emergency Management (24 hours) 525-5770

Suicide Prevention/Intervention

Mental Health Crisis 257-7222

Fraud Hotline 93-FRAUD

House of Correction

General and Visiting Information 427-4700

Jury Services

General Information 278-4468/278-4469

Reserve Juror Message 985-6000

Low Income Housing/Rent Assistance 278-4894

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts 273-7121

Marriage Licenses/Passports/DNR License... 278-4067

Medical Examiner 223-1200

Mental Health Complex 257-6995

Admitting (Emergency) 257-7260

Milwaukee Art Museum 224-3200

Milwaukee County Historical Society 273-8288

Milwaukee County Parks

Boerner Botanical Gardens 525-5600

General Information 257-7275

Parks Hotline 257-5100

Organized Sports 257-8030

Golf Reservations 475-6222

Golf Office 257-8024

District 13 Parks

Atkinson Triangle (936 W. Atkinson Ave.) 964-0064

Carver Park (911 W. Brown St.) 263-5499

Estabrook Park (4400 N. Estabrook Dr.) 964-0064

Gordon Park (2828 N. Humboldt Blvd.) 962-8809

Kern Park (3614 N. Humboldt Blvd.) 964-0064

Milwaukee River Parkway 461-0839

Pleasant Valley (1229 E. Concordia Ave.) 962-8809

Rose Park (3045 N. Dr. ML King Dr.) 263-5499

Milwaukee County Zoo 771-3040

Milwaukee Public Museum 278-2702

Office of Persons with Disabilities 278-3932

Register in Probate 278-4444

Register of Deeds 278-4021

Transit System

Bus Routes/Schedules/Fares 344-6711

Customer Comments 937-3218

Transit Plus 343-1700

UW-Extension 256-4600

Veterans Services 266-1234

Victim/Witness Service

General Information-Felony 278-4667

City of Milwaukee

City Hall/Common Council 286-2221

Night 286-CITY (2489)